

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

MICROSOFT CORPORATION, a Washington  
corporation,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOHN DOES 1 – 10 using IP address  
76.245.7.147,

Defendants.

No. 14-cv-1852

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES  
AND EQUITABLE RELIEF

Plaintiff Microsoft Corporation (“Microsoft”) files this Complaint against Defendants  
John Does 1-10 using IP address 76.245.7.147 (“Defendants”), alleging as follows:

**I. PARTIES**

1. Microsoft is a Washington corporation with its principal place of business in  
Redmond, Washington. Microsoft develops, markets, distributes, and licenses computer  
software, among other products and services.

2. The true identities of the Defendants are not presently known to Microsoft. On  
information and belief, Defendants are in possession or control of the Internet Protocol (“IP”)  
address 76.245.7.147, which was used by Defendants in furtherance of the unlawful conduct  
alleged herein. On information and belief, this IP address is assigned to AT&T Internet  
Services, an Internet Service Provider, which in turn assigned it to the Defendants for their use  
at certain times relevant to this complaint.

## II. JURISDICTION & VENUE

3. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Microsoft's claims for trademark infringement, copyright infringement, and related claims pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121, 17 U.S.C. § 501, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a). The Court also has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because on information and belief, this action is between citizens of different states and the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

4. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they purposefully directed their unlawful activities at Washington, and Microsoft's claims arise from those activities. In activating or attempting to activate pirated Microsoft software, as described below, Defendants reached out and contacted Microsoft servers in Washington, and transmitted information to those servers and Microsoft in Washington. In addition, Defendants expressly aimed their conduct at Washington because they (1) had actual or constructive knowledge of Microsoft's intellectual property rights (including Microsoft's registered copyrights and trademarks) and Microsoft's residence in Washington; (2) acted, at a minimum, with willful blindness to, or in reckless disregard of, Microsoft's rights; and (3) knew or should have known that their conduct would cause harm to Microsoft in Washington. *See Wash. Shoe Co. v. A-Z Sporting Goods, Inc.*, 704 F.3d 668 (9th Cir. 2012).

5. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) because Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in the Western District of Washington. *See Brayton Purcell LLP v. Recordon & Recordon*, 606 F.3d 1124 (9th Cir. 2010).

6. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 3(d), intra-district assignment to the Seattle Division is proper because the claims arose in this Division, where (a) Microsoft resides, (b) the injuries giving rise to suit occurred, and (c) Defendants directed their unlawful conduct.

### III. FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

#### A. The Global Problem of Software Piracy

7. Software developers lose billions of dollars in annual revenue from software piracy, namely, the unauthorized and unlawful copying, downloading, and distributing of copyrighted and trademarked software and related components. In 2013, the commercial value of pirated software in the United States was in excess of \$9.7 billion. *See* Business Software Alliance, *The Compliance Gap: Global Software Survey* (June 2014), [http://globalstudy.bsa.org/2013/downloads/studies/2013GlobalSurvey\\_Study\\_en.pdf](http://globalstudy.bsa.org/2013/downloads/studies/2013GlobalSurvey_Study_en.pdf).

8. One prominent form of software piracy is known as “hard-disk loading,” which is the unauthorized copying and installation of infringing software on devices. Those devices are then sold in competition with, and often for lower prices than, devices pre-installed with legally licensed copies of software.

9. Software developers, like Microsoft, are not the only victims of software piracy. Microsoft’s customers are also victims as they are often deceived by distributors of pirated software who go to great lengths to make the software appear genuine. When this occurs, customers may unwittingly expose themselves to security risks associated with the use of pirated software. *See* Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Consumer Alert: Pirated Software May Contain Malware*, Aug. 1, 2013, at <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2013/august/pirated-software-may-contain-malware/> (noting the relatively greater risk that pirated software is infected with malicious software, or “malware,” which can be used to record keystrokes and thus capture sensitive information such as user names, passwords, and Social Security numbers).

#### B. Microsoft’s Software and Intellectual Property

10. Microsoft develops, advertises, markets, distributes, and licenses a number of computer software programs. Microsoft’s software programs are recorded on distributable media, such as DVDs, or are made available for download through various authorized distribution channels.

11. **Windows 7:** Microsoft has developed, advertises, markets, distributes, and licenses a computer operating system called Microsoft Windows 7 (“Windows 7”). Microsoft holds a valid copyright in Windows 7 that was duly and properly registered with the United States Copyright Office. A true and correct copy of the Registration Certificate for Microsoft Windows 7, bearing the number TX 7-009-361, is attached as Exhibit 1.

12. **Office 2010:** Microsoft has developed, advertises, markets, distributes, and licenses a suite of productivity software for business, home, and educational use called Microsoft Office 2010 (“Office 2010”). Office 2010 is available in a number of different versions, each of which includes certain combinations of products, programs, and features. Versions of Office 2010 include Office Professional 2010, Office Home and Business 2010, and Office Home and Student 2010. Microsoft holds a valid copyright in Office Professional Plus 2010, the most expansive version of Office 2010. As a result, Microsoft’s copyright in Office Professional Plus 2010 encompasses all other versions of Office 2010. Microsoft’s copyright in Office Professional Plus 2010 was duly and properly registered with the United States Copyright Office. A true and correct copy of the Registration Certificate for Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010, bearing the number TX 7-151-840, is attached as Exhibit 2.

13. Microsoft has also duly and properly registered a number of trademarks and service marks in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Principal Register, including without limitation:

- (a) “MICROSOFT,” Trademark and Service Mark Registration No. 1,200,236, for computer programs and computer programming services;
- (b) WINDOWS, Trademark Registration No. 1,872,264 for computer programs and manuals sold as a unit;
- (c) “FLAG DESIGN TWO (B/W),” Trademark Registration No. 2,738,877, for computer software;
- (d) “FLAG DESIGN TWO (COLOR),” Trademark Registration No. 2,744,843, for computer software;

- (e) "MICROSOFT OFFICE," Trademark Registration No. 3,625,391, for computer productivity software;
- (f) OFFICE 2010 DESIGN, Trademark Registration No. 4,029,299, for computer productivity software;
- (g) "ACCESS," Trademark Registration No. 3,238,869, for computer database management software;
- (h) "ACCESS LAUNCH ICON (2010)," Trademark Registration No. 3,905,556, for computer database management software;
- (i) "EXCEL," Trademark Registration No. 2,942,050, for computer spreadsheet software;
- (j) "EXCEL LAUNCH ICON 2010," Trademark Registration No. 3,905,558, for computer spreadsheet software;
- (k) "ONENOTE," Trademark Registration No. 2,844,710, for computer software for use in note taking;
- (l) "ONENOTE LAUNCH ICON 2010," Trademark Registration No. 3,905,559, for computer software for use in note taking;
- (m) "OUTLOOK," Trademark Registration No. 2,188,125, for computer programs for providing enhanced electronic mail and scheduling capabilities;
- (n) "OUTLOOK LAUNCH ICON 2010," Trademark Registration No. 3,905,560, for computer programs for providing enhanced electronic mail and scheduling capabilities;
- (o) "POWERPOINT," Trademark Registration No. 1,475,795, for computer software programs for creating presentations, graphics and videos;
- (p) "POWERPOINT LAUNCH ICON 2010," Trademark Registration No. 3,905,561, for computer software programs for creating presentations, graphics and videos;

(q) “WORD LAUNCH ICON 2010,” Trademark Registration No.

3,909,143, for word processing software; and

True and correct copies of the Trademark Registrations for (a) through (r) above are attached as Exhibits 3 through 19, respectively.

**C. Microsoft’s Distribution Channels for Software**

14. Microsoft has a number of distribution channels for its software. These channels include, among others, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), volume licensing, subscriptions, and refurbisher.

15. The Original Equipment Manufacturer (“OEM”) distribution channel is one through which Microsoft software is distributed to computer and device manufacturers called OEMs. OEMs customarily pre-install software on the devices they build including, most commonly, the Microsoft Windows operating system.

16. The OEM distribution channel involves sub-channels that supply Microsoft software to different categories of OEMs. Two of these sub-channels are relevant for purposes of this complaint: the Commercial OEM channel and the Direct OEM channel.

17. Through the Commercial OEM (“COEM”) channel, Microsoft and a large number of authorized distributors supply what is called “system builder” software to small and medium-sized OEMs for pre-installation on devices. As described in detail below, this software is required to be individually activated on each device.

18. Through the Direct OEM (“DOEM”) channel, Microsoft directly provides software to large computer manufacturers, such as Dell and Lenovo, for pre-installation on devices. The DOEMs acquire some components associated with the Microsoft software from Microsoft Authorized Replicators (“ARs”).

19. In addition to the OEM channel, Microsoft offers a number of subscription programs through which it provides software to qualified groups. One example of a subscription program is the Microsoft Developer Network (“MSDN”), which is for individuals

1 and entities that develop third-party software compatible with Microsoft software. MSDN  
2 subscribers are able to download certain Microsoft software directly from Microsoft.

3 20. Microsoft also offers Volume Licensing (“VL”) programs for its business  
4 customers. Through the VL program, customers purchase licenses for their software and can  
5 add, remove, and upgrade their software as their business needs evolve.

#### 6 **D. Product Activation**

7 21. Like many other software developers, Microsoft has implemented a wide-range  
8 of initiatives to protect its customers and combat theft of its intellectual property. One  
9 important tool in Microsoft’s anti-piracy protection arsenal is its product activation system,  
10 which involves the activation of software through product keys.

11 22. A Microsoft product key is a 25-character alphanumeric string generated by  
12 Microsoft and provided to customers and OEMs. Generally, when customers or OEMs install  
13 Microsoft software on a device, they must enter the product key. Then, as part of the activation  
14 process, customers and/or OEMs voluntarily contact Microsoft’s activation servers over the  
15 Internet and transmit their product keys and other technical information about their device to  
16 the servers. The activation servers involved in this matter are physically located in Tukwila,  
17 Washington.

18 23. The activation process is analogous to the activation of credit cards or mobile  
19 phones with a code provided by the financial institution or the mobile carrier. Because  
20 Microsoft’s copyrighted software is capable of being installed on an unlimited number of  
21 computers, Microsoft relies on the product activation process to detect piracy and protect  
22 consumers from the risk of non-genuine software.

23 24. In the OEM channel, each *copy* of genuine Microsoft Windows and Office  
24 software that is purchased is distributed with a product key unique to that copy of the  
25 software—thus, if a customer purchases ten copies of Windows 7, the customer is supplied  
26 with ten unique product keys. For Microsoft’s subscription and VL programs, customers are  
27 normally supplied a single product key for each *version* of Microsoft software they license—

1 for example, a customer would receive one reusable product key for all Office Professional  
2 licenses authorized under their VL agreement to install and activate all copies.

3 25. Windows Product activation works differently in the COEM and DOEM  
4 channels. COEMs are required to use individual product keys to install and activate software  
5 on the computer system. DOEMs, on the other hand, use either a master key to install  
6 Windows software (as in the case with Windows 7) or a separate file generated from Microsoft  
7 to install and activate Windows software (as in the case with Windows 8) for each device.

#### 8 **E. Microsoft's Use of Cyberforensics to Combat Piracy**

9 26. To support Microsoft's global efforts to combat the piracy of its software,  
10 Microsoft recently launched the Microsoft Cybercrime Center. *See* Microsoft Cybercrime  
11 Center, [http://www.microsoft.com/government/ww/safety-defense/initiatives/Pages/](http://www.microsoft.com/government/ww/safety-defense/initiatives/Pages/cybercrime-center.aspx)  
12 [cybercrime-center.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/government/ww/safety-defense/initiatives/Pages/cybercrime-center.aspx). Among other tools, the Cybercrime Center relies on investigative  
13 methods that leverage state-of-the-art technology to detect software piracy. Microsoft refers to  
14 these methods as "cyberforensics."

15 27. As part of its cyberforensic methods, Microsoft analyzes product key activation  
16 data voluntarily provided by users when they activate Microsoft software, including the IP  
17 address from which a given product key is activated. An IP address is a numerical identifier  
18 used to uniquely identify an internet-capable device when the device is connected to the  
19 Internet. An IP address is ordinarily assigned to an internet user (whether an individual or an  
20 entity) by the user's Internet Service Provider ("ISP").

21 28. Entities charged with managing and administering internet numbering resources,  
22 including IP addresses, publish information about IP address assignment and registration in  
23 publicly-searchable databases. Akin to an IP address "phone book," these databases can be  
24 used to associate each IP address with the individual or entity assigned to use that address. In  
25 some cases, the listed individual or entity is actually using the IP address; in other cases, the  
26 listed individual or entity is an ISP who has assigned the IP address to one of its customers.  
27 Thus, in some instances, the identity of the individual or entity associated with a particular IP



1 address is publicly available; in other instances, the identity of the individual or entity can only  
2 be obtained from the ISP assigned to that IP address.

3 29. Cyberforensics allows Microsoft to analyze billions of activations of Microsoft  
4 software and identify activation patterns and characteristics that make it more likely than not  
5 that the IP address associated with the activations is an address through which pirated software  
6 is being activated. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, software activations  
7 with:

- 8 a. Product keys known to have been stolen from Microsoft's supply chain;
- 9 b. OEM product keys impermissibly used in the OEM and/or  
10 refurbisher channel;
- 11 c. Subscription program product keys used by non-qualified individuals or  
12 entities, or by individuals or entities other than the subscriber;
- 13 d. Subscription program product keys used in a manner that is not  
14 authorized by the applicable license (such as product keys intended for  
15 educational institutions used by commercial entities);
- 16 e. Any type of product key used more times than is authorized by the  
17 applicable software license; or
- 18 f. Volume license product keys used by someone other than the volume  
19 licensee.

## 20 **F. Defendants' Infringing Conduct**

21 30. Microsoft's cyberforensics have identified a number of product key activations  
22 originating from IP address 76.245.7.147 ("the IP address"), which is presently assigned to ISP  
23 AT&T Internet Services, and which, on information and belief, is being used by the Defendants  
24 in furtherance of the unlawful conduct alleged herein. These activations have characteristics  
25 that on information and belief, establish that Defendants are using the IP address to activate  
26 pirated software.



37. At a minimum, Defendants acted with willful blindness to, or in reckless disregard of, Microsoft's registered copyrights.

38. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Microsoft is entitled to recover its actual damages and Defendants' profits attributable to the infringement. Alternatively, Microsoft is entitled to statutory damages under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

39. The award of statutory damages should be enhanced in accordance with 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).

40. Microsoft is further entitled to injunctive relief and an order impounding all infringing materials. Microsoft has no adequate remedy at law for Defendants' wrongful conduct because, among other things: (a) Microsoft's copyrights are unique and valuable property which have no readily determinable market value; (b) Defendants' infringement harms Microsoft such that Microsoft could not be made whole by any monetary award; and (c) Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the resulting damage to Microsoft, is continuing.

### **Second Claim** **Trademark Infringement – 15 U.S.C. § 1114**

41. Defendants' activities constitute infringement of Microsoft's federally registered trademarks and service mark with the registration numbers listed above

42. Microsoft advertises, markets, distributes, and licenses its software and related components under the trademarks and service mark described above and uses these trademarks and service mark to distinguish Microsoft's products from the software and related items of others in the same or related fields.

43. Because of Microsoft's long, continuous, and exclusive use of these trademarks and service mark, they have come to mean, and are understood by customers, end users, and the public to signify, software programs and related components or services of Microsoft.

44. The infringing materials that Defendants have and are continuing to advertise, market, install, offer, and distribute are likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception as to their source, origin, or authenticity.

45. Further, Defendants' activities are likely to lead the public to conclude, incorrectly, that the infringing materials that Defendants are advertising, marketing, installing, offering, and/or distributing originate with or are authorized by Microsoft, thereby harming Microsoft, its licensees, and the public.

46. At a minimum, Defendants acted with willful blindness to, or in reckless disregard of, Microsoft's registered marks.

47. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Microsoft is entitled to recover its actual damages, Defendants' profits attributable to the infringement, and treble damages and attorney fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117 (a) and (b). Alternatively, Microsoft is entitled to statutory damages under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c).

48. Microsoft is further entitled to injunctive relief and an order compelling the impounding of all infringing materials. Microsoft has no adequate remedy at law for Defendants' wrongful conduct because, among other things: (a) Microsoft's trademarks and service mark are unique and valuable property that have no readily determinable market value; (b) Defendants' infringement constitutes harm to Microsoft's reputation and goodwill such that Microsoft could not be made whole by any monetary award; (c) if Defendants' wrongful conduct is allowed to continue, the public is likely to become further confused, mistaken, or deceived as to the source, origin or authenticity of the infringing materials; and (d) Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the resulting harm to Microsoft, is continuing.

### **Third Claim** **Imposition of a Constructive Trust**

49. Defendants' conduct constitutes deceptive and wrongful conduct in the nature of passing off the infringing materials as genuine Microsoft software or related components approved or authorized by Microsoft.

50. By virtue of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Defendants have illegally received money and profits that rightfully belong to Microsoft.

51. On information and belief, Defendants hold the illegally received money and profits in the form of bank accounts, real property, or personal property that can be located and traced. All such money and profits, in whatever form, are held by Defendants as a constructive trustee for Microsoft.

**Fourth Claim**  
**Accounting**

52. Microsoft is entitled, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504 and 15 U.S.C. § 1117, to recover any and all profits of Defendants that are attributable to the acts of infringement.

53. Microsoft is entitled, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504 and 15 U.S.C. § 1117, to actual damages or statutory damages sustained by virtue of Defendants' acts of infringement.

54. The amount of money due from Defendants to Microsoft is unknown to Microsoft and cannot be ascertained without a detailed accounting by Defendants of the precise number of units of infringing material advertised, marketed, installed, offered or distributed by Defendants.

**V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Microsoft respectfully prays for the following relief:

A. That the Court enter judgment in Microsoft's favor on all claims;

B. That the Court restrain and enjoin Defendants, their directors, principals, officers, agents, representatives, employees, attorneys, successors and assigns, and all others in active concert or participation with it, from:

(i) copying or making any other infringing use or infringing distribution of Microsoft's software and other intellectual property including but not limited to the software identified by the Trademark, Service Mark, and Copyright Registration Numbers listed above;

(ii) manufacturing, assembling, producing, distributing, offering for distribution, circulating, selling, offering for sale, advertising, importing, promoting, or displaying any Microsoft software or other intellectual property bearing any simulation, reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of any of Microsoft's registered

1 trademarks, service mark, or copyrights, including, but not limited to, the Trademark, Service  
2 Mark, and Copyright Registration Numbers listed above;

3 (iii) using any simulation, reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable  
4 imitation of Microsoft's registered trademarks, service mark, or copyright including, but not  
5 limited to the Trademark, Service Mark, and Copyright Registration Numbers listed above, in  
6 connection with the manufacture, assembly, production, distribution, offering for distribution,  
7 circulation, sale, offering for sale, import, advertisement, promotion, or display of any  
8 software, component, and/or other item not authorized or licensed by Microsoft;

9 (iv) engaging in any other activity constituting an infringement of any of  
10 Microsoft's trademarks, service mark and/or copyrights, or of Microsoft's rights in, or right to  
11 use or to exploit, these trademarks, service mark, and/or copyrights; and

12 (v) assisting, aiding, or abetting any other person or business entity in  
13 engaging in or performing any of the activities listed above;

14 C. That the Court enter an order pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116(a)(d)(1)(A) and 17  
15 U.S.C. § 503 impounding all counterfeit and infringing copies of purported Microsoft software  
16 and/or materials bearing any of Microsoft's trademarks or service mark, and any related item,  
17 including business records, that are in Defendants' possession or under their control;

18 D. That the Court enter an order declaring that Defendants hold in trust, as  
19 constructive trustees for the benefit of Microsoft, the illegal profits obtained from their  
20 distribution of counterfeit and infringing copies of Microsoft's software, and requiring  
21 Defendants to provide Microsoft a full and complete accounting of all amounts due and owing  
22 to Microsoft as a result of Defendants' unlawful activities;

23 E. That Defendants be required to pay all general, special, actual, and statutory  
24 damages which Microsoft has sustained, or will sustain, as a consequence of Defendants'  
25 unlawful acts, and that such damages be enhanced, doubled, or trebled as provided for by 17  
26 U.S.C. § 504(c) and 15 U.S.C. § 1117(b);  
27

1 F. That Defendants be required to pay to Microsoft both the costs of this action and  
2 the reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by Microsoft in prosecuting this action, as provided for  
3 by 15 U.S.C. § 1117 and 17 U.S.C. § 505; and

4 G. That the Court grant Microsoft such other, further, and additional relief as the  
5 Court deems just and equitable.

6 DATED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

7 DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP  
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